NEW ORLEANS
STATES-ITEM
FINAL
SPORTS
MARKETS
VOL. 91—NO. 77 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1967 PRICE 10c

MCC Writes McKeithen

Increase Pressure For O'Hara Ouster

The Metropolitan Crime Commission today asked the governor to start proceedings aimed at removing New Orleans Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara from office.

In a letter to Gov. John J. McKeithen, the MCC said Judge O'Hara should be ousted because he "has betrayed his trust as an elected judicial officer. . . ."

The request to McKeithen was a new round in the MCC campaign to strip the judge of office. Its request to O'Hara earlier this week asking him to resign was answered by a heated denunciation from the judge.

THE LETTER to McKeithen said Judge O'Hara had admitted under oath to serving "as a 'companion' to, and 'messenger' for, a felon convicted in the federal courts on multiple counts of offenses which constitute labor racketeering."

The reference was to the judge's testimony during a federal court hearing in Chicago last month when convicted Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa was appealing his federal convictions on charges of bribing a juror and misusing union funds.

Judge O'Hara told the court he had accompanied New Orleans contractor Zachary A. Strate Jr. on several trips and had helped with attempts to procure evidence that Hoffa was convicted on the basis of wiretap information.

Strate was convicted with Hoffa in the misuse of union funds case and is appealing.

THE MCC accused Judge O'Hara of participating in "unsuccessful efforts to influence Walter Sheridan and Edward Partin to falsely allege circumstances which might help to free from prison America's most destructive labor racketeer . . ."

Strate testified at the Chicago hearing that Sheridan, a National Broadcasting Co. reporter, offered to provide evidence that Hoffa's conviction was based on wiretapping in return for help in halting Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Neither Sheridan, a onetime investigator for the Senate Labor Rackets Committee, nor Partin, head of the Baton Rouge Teamsters local, was called to testify at Chicago.

WRITING McKeithen, MCC President E. C. Upton Jr. and

See O'HARA— Page 7

O'Hara--

Continued from Front Page

Managing Director Aaron M. Kohn cited state code sections which they said provided for the removal and impeachment of state officers.

Their letter said the Louisiana Supreme Court has jurisdiction in the removal of judges and added that the suit must be brought by the state attorney general at the request of the governor.

"We believe the evidence establishes gross misconduct and possible crimes on the part of Judge O'Hara," the MCC request declared, adding:

"WE RESPECTFULLY request that you formally instruct Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to initiate a hearing before the State Supreme Court where all evidence and witnesses can be produced for the judgment of that court."

When the MCC asked O'Hara to resign, the judge returned the group's letter unopened and blasted Kohn as a "professional muckraker, charlatan and a genius at spewing forth a great volume of half truths and innuendos."